

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 15, 2008

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, on July 14, 2008, I was unavoidably detained and was not able to record my vote for rollcall No. 486.

Had I been present I would have voted:

Rollcall No. 486—"yes"—Recognizing the 50th anniversary of the crossing of the North Pole by the USS *Nautilus* (SSN 571).

TRIBUTE TO MARILYN ADAMS

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 15, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Marilyn Adams of Earlham, Iowa for her dedication to promoting farm safety and earning the Volvo for Life National Hometown Hero Award.

The Volvo for Life National Hometown Hero Award recognizes leaders in safety, the environment and quality of life. In addition to the award, Marilyn receives a Volvo vehicle of her choice and is able to trade-in for a new Volvo vehicle every three years. Marilyn dedicated the award to her son who passed away in a farm accident over two decades ago. To help prevent other farm accidents, Marilyn founded Farm Safety 4 Just Kids, which is a farm advocacy safety organization for children. It started as a local organization and grew to a national and international organization which has 137 chapters across the globe. Marilyn also received \$100,000 which she is putting into an endowment for Farm Safety 4 Just Kids.

Marilyn's dedication to educating children and her commitment to preserving the lives of children in the farming community should be commended. I consider it an honor to represent Marilyn Adams in the United States Congress and I wish her and Farm Safety 4 Just Kids the very best in the future.

FEDERAL LAND ASSISTANCE,
MANAGEMENT, AND ENHANCE-
MENT ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 9, 2008

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, with nearly 300 fires continuing to burn in California, it is clear we cannot afford to wait to deal with the enduring threat forest fires pose to our communities. That's why I rise in strong support of H.R. 5541, the Federal Land Assistance, Management, and Enhancement (FLAME) Act.

Over the last decade, we've seen a dramatic increase in the number of devastating forest fires. Those fires have long lasting effects on our ecosystem, increasing the deadliness of mudslides, which destroy our homes, displace once vegetated areas with bare terrain, and disburse large quantities of pollutants across broad regions.

Nine million acres burned across the United States last year, and there is no indication that 2008 will be any different. Climate change and drought are creating longer and more intense fire seasons, while a century of fire containment has made the forests denser and more vulnerable to burning.

The increase in forest fires has led to skyrocketing costs for federal fire suppression efforts, which prevents the U.S. Department of the Interior and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service Agency from adequately funding essential programs that will lessen the intensity of fires, reduce their frequency, and better protect the public. The FLAME Act would prevent future forest fires from devastating communities across the country and crippling federal land management agency budgets by creating an emergency national fund devoted solely to fighting such destructive fires. This fund will be separate from traditional funding for fire mitigation and prevention.

It's our responsibility to empower our nation's firefighters with the tools they need to effectively fight forest fires. I ask my colleagues to join me in passing this important legislation to better ensure that our citizens, environment, and ecosystem are safe from the dangers of forest fires.

EXPRESSING APPRECIATION OF
CONGRESS TO THE FAMILIES OF
MEMBERS OF ARMED FORCES

SPEECH OF

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 14, 2008

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Con. Res. 295, which takes the initiative in extending the appreciation of Congress to both the members of the United States Armed Forces and their families.

First, I want to commend the chief sponsor, Mr. BILIRAKIS of Florida, for his great efforts in introducing this important bill.

As a former member of our United States Armed Forces, I want to personally convey my gratitude to Congressman BILIRAKIS and all of the co-sponsors for bringing this vital resolution forth. It is an example of the Congress' dedication to those serving our country around the world and our efforts to assist their families in various ways.

Mr. Speaker, with increased conflicts around the world needing our armed forces' attention, the amount of our active troops has increased exponentially. According to the Department of Defense (DOD), we currently have over 2 million personnel serving. Of that number, there are more than 700,000 households with at least one parent deployed on active military duty. While deployed, the remaining family provides much needed support to their military members through correspondence and packages. Yet, many times, these families do not have the resources to provide the full support they desire. Fortunately, the Department of Defense offers assistance through numerous programs. For example, the Military Homefront aids service members, whether active or retired, and their families with DOD Quality of Life programs. Even with the available pro-

grams, more programs are needed in order to provide for both the immediate and extended families of our current and past military personnel.

In response to this growing need, Congressman BILIRAKIS introduced H. Con. Res. 295 on February 13, 2008. This includes not only the support of the United States Armed Forces, but also support of their families through any physical and emotional ordeals that may arise as their loved ones devote their lives to their country. As the Representative for American Samoa, I realize the great importance of supporting our military families. The Samoan people take great pride in serving our nation and have shown it through our high recruitment numbers. Yet regrettably, we also have the highest casualty rate per capita. Just a few weeks ago, a son of American Samoa, Lt. Col. Max Galea'i was killed while supporting combat operations in Iraq's Al Anbar Province. Last week, I was honored to accompany Max's family, his wife Evelyn and four beautiful children, to American Samoa where Max was laid to rest. The 42-year old commander of the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marines from the Marine Corps Base Hawaii represented the epitome of a proud military member, and for his dedication and for the dedication of all our service men and women and their families, we must support this bill.

For the sake of their commitment and sacrifice, we must honor our United States Armed Forces by supporting those most important to them, their families. I urge my colleagues to pass H. Con. Res. 295, and I thank you for your support of this very important resolution.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE
WILLIAM F. "BILL" ROBINSON**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 15, 2008

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of a dedicated public servant whose contributions to the residents of my district will live on for many years to come—The Honorable William F. "Bill" Robinson.

Born in Valdosta, Ga., Mr. Robinson spent part of his youth in Miami, where he excelled at baseball. In 1934, he went on to play in the Negro Leagues for the Brooklyn Royals, as a catcher for the team until 1940. His old uniform now hangs in the Negro League's Baseball Museum in Kansas City, Mo.

Moved to Buffalo in 1942, Mr. Robinson employed his training as a welder and was recruited to build machine guns at the old Buffalo Arms plant during World War II. He later was employed at International Railway Co., a forerunner to the Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority (NFTA), for which he was one of the first African-American bus drivers, retiring in 1979 after 35 years of service.

What's most amazing, however, is what Bill Robinson did long after most people retire from active work service. Retired from the NFTA but still active as a Democratic Party activist, Mr. Robinson was appointed to the County Legislature in the mid-1980s, following the death of his son Barry, who had been elected to three terms in his own right.

Mr. Robinson's service in the Legislature for a time coincided with my own service on the